

# PRESERVING FLOWERS AND FOLIAGES

Reprinted through courtesy of Mrs. Georgia McWilliams

1. GLYCERINIZE LEAVES - to keep them soft and pliable - 1/3 glycerine to 2/3 hot water. Pound stems of woody branches - peel - cut 2-3 inches. Wash leaves and remove broken parts - absorbs more quickly.

Two inches in solution - few at time - dry well - ventilate room. Dampen leaves with cotton in solution - tips of branches will dry out. Take out before change color.

GROUND COVER - absorb thru leaves, so cover completely - use shallow casserole - cover to prevent evaporation.

Alba Poplar	Forsythia leaves	Periwinkle
Beech	Galax leaves	Rhododendron
Caster-Bean leaves	Ivy	Sour-wood
Dogwood	Magnolia	Chestnut leaves
	Oak	

2. HANGING - air drying

Tie or wire in bunches, heads down (tie or wire leaves or branches while growing in yard for oriental poppy, etc.). Hang in dry dark place - make curves with tape or wire. Things picked green will stay green.

Ageratum	Bayberries	Beechdrops
Bittersweet	Blue grass	Branble berries
Bridle wreath	Buck eye	Catalpa pods
Chinese lantern	Cockscomb	Corn
Crabgrass	Dock	Gladiolus, Calyx
Globe - Amaranth	Goldenrod	Gourds
Ground Cherries	Hazelnut	Helepterus
Henbone	Hickory nut	Honesty Plant (money)
Honey Locust pods	Hydrangea	Iris Seed pod
Japanese Iris	Joe Pie Weed	Lady's Finger
Lady's Thumb	Lavender	Liatris
Lichen	Lotus pods	Love in a Mist pods
Magnolia Cones	Magnolia Foliage	Milkweed pods
Oats	Okra pods	Onion bloom
Orchard Grass	Palm	Pearly Everlasting
Pepper pods	Pomegranate	Poppy pods (annual)
Poppy pods - Oriental	Pussywillow	Pyracantha
Redbud	Rose of Sharon, Calyx	Sage
Scotch Broom	Sea Oats	Snowball Tree
Solomon's Seal, berries	Statice	Strawflower
Sumac Seed pod	Pansy	Teasel pods
Thyme	Tumbleweed	Wheat
Wisteria	Wormwood, Silver King	Yarrow and Yucca

3. SAND - use fine, clean and dry sand. Most double flowers (roses, Dahlias, etc) are wired and placed head up and sand sifted in between petals. Flat single flowers are placed face down - some need stems wired. Check for drying - two or three days if dry and warm. Use soft brush to remove sand.

Apple Blossom	Aster	Bachelor's Button
Bells of Ireland	Black eyed Susan	Butter and Eggs
Calendula	Carnation	Chinese Forget me not
Chrysanthemum	Dahlia	Daisy
Delphinium	Dogwood	Forsythia
Gladiolus	Hollyhock	Japonica
Jonquil	Lantana	Larkspur
Lilac	Lily	Love in a mist
Lupine	Marigold	Narcissus
Pansy	Peony	Queen Anne's Lace
Rose	Rose of Sharon	Snapdragon
Sun Flower	Tulip	Zinnia

Store in dark box - always dry more material than you will need. Also be sure to dry a few buds and leaves.

4. PRESSING - several layers of absorbent paper, heavy weight (books, magazines, etc.) Some foliage takes 3 to 4 weeks.

Autumn Leaves	Butterfly	Fern
Nandina Foliage	Rose Foliage	

5. BAKED - 250 degrees for 5 to 10 minutes

Lily of Valley

6. CORN MEAL AND BORAX - mix 3 parts of corn meal to 1 part borax and place in a box. Place flowers face down and cover with the mixture. Check in 2 or 3 days. This method is used for the same flowers you would dry in sand. With corn meal and borax the flowers retain more of their color.

7. BORAX AND SAND (or silica gel available at garden centers)

Reprinted from Kalamazoo Gazette, Sept. 15, 1968.

A solution of one part borax and 2 parts silica sand (or silica gel). With silica gel, a container which will seal tightly is a must to keep out excess moisture. For other methods, a shoe box may be used. Bury the flowers in an inch or so of the mixture in the container. They must be completely covered. The stem should be placed down in the material if the flower has upturned petals, like the rose, lily or daffodil, and stem up for flowers such as black eyed susans, daisies or sinias.

Gently sift the mixture over the blooms so that the flower maintains its original appearance as much as possible and until it is completely covered. The drying time depends on the texture and size of the bloom, but generally it is two to three days for small flowers (dwarf marigolds, pansies, daisies, etc.) and four to five days for larger ones (giant zinnias, roses, marigolds). When the sand and borax method is used, flowers may take from 10 days to two weeks to dry, depending on texture.



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Dogwood

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Galax leaves

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Pomegranate

Pussywillow

Rose of Sharon, Calyx

Sea Oats

Statice

Pansy

Tumblewood

Wormwood, Silver King

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Bramble berries

Catalpa pods

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